

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARSEI 00019 171315Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 DODE-00 CPR-01
/041 W

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R 171245Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
TO COM SIXTH FLEET
INFO PARIS DAO
SECSTATE WASHDC 1466

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0019

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR
SUBJECT: SIXTH FLEET VISITS TO ST. RAPHAEL

1. DURING MY CALL UPON ST. RAPHAEL MAYOR R.G. LAURIN ON JANUARY 13 HE COMMENTED THAT FLEET VISITS HAD DROPPED OFF IN RECENT MONTHS AND THAT HE HOPED THIS WOULD CHANGE SINCE HE AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS ARE PLEASED INDEED TO HOST SHIP VISITS.

2. I RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT SINCE I WAS RELATIVELY NEW TO THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN A REDUCTION OF SIXTH FLEET VISITS IN 1977 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS, BUT THAT I WOULD CONVEY THE MAYOR'S VIEWS TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

3. ON JANUARY 16, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM MAYOR LAURIN WHICH CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE, TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, WHICH I PASS ON FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

4. QUOTE:

"I THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT. I RELY ON YOU TO TELL THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 6TH FLEET HOW MUCH THE POPULATION AND THE MAIRIE OF ST. RAPHAEL WOULD LIKE
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YOUR SHIPS TO CALL AT OUR PORT MORE AND HOW MUCH WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THEM THERE. MOREOVER, LET ME REMIND YOU THAT WE WOULD BE GLAD TO COMMEMORATE THE 15TH OF AUGUST LANDING CEREMONIES IN DRAMONT UTILIZING AMERICAN SAILORS ON BOARD A SHIP MOORED IN ST. RAPHAEL IF THAT CAN BE ARRANGED AT THAT MOMENT."

5. I SUPPORT THE MAYOR'S REQUEST, AND BELIEVE THAT HE WILL INDEED WELCOME MORE SHIPS VISITS. THE MAYOR IS VERY PRO-US, SPEAKS ENGLISH, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TOWN WHICH IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS BEACH RESORT AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. THIS CONSULATE GENERAL ASSUREDLY WOULD PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE HELP TO MAKE SIXTH FLEET VISITS SUCCESSFUL.

6. YOUR VIEWS REGARDING THE MAYOR'S REQUEST WOULD BE APPRECIATED SO THAT I CAN PROVIDE HIM WITH A RESPONSE WHEN AND AS APPROPRIATE. MEIMA

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NNN

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